

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S): Bhabendra K. Pradhan

CONTINUATION OF SERIAL NO.:

GROUP ART UNIT:

FILED: Herewith EXAMINER:

FOR: "Process to Reduce the Pre-Reduction Step for Catalysts for
Nanocarbon Synthesis"

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: A03168US (15630.142)

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A method of preparing and utilizing a catalyst for nano-fiber synthesis, comprising the following steps:

a. heating a metal oxide to an initial temperature of between 400 and 500°C in 10-20% hydrogen at a heating rate of 1-10°C/min to affect its reduction and holding for around 10-60 minutes;

b. increasing the temperature to between 550-700°C; and

c. passing a mixture of CO/H₂ over the catalyst to produce the nano-carbon fibers.

2. (Original) The method in claim 1, wherein the metal oxide comprises iron oxide.